

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
PROPRIETOR.

THE DAILY HERALD, published every day in the year. Three cents per copy (Sunday excluded). Ten dollars per year. Five dollars for six months. Two dollars and fifty cents for three months. At a rate of one dollar per month for any period less than three months. Sunday edition included without extra charge. Single copies five cents. Sent by mail on payment of the price in advance.

WEEKLY HERALD—One dollar per year, free of post.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.—Remit in drafts on New York or Post Office money orders, and where neither of these can be procured send the money in a registered letter. All money remitted at risk of sender. In order to leave attention subscribers wishing their address changed must give their old as well as their new address. All business, news letters or telegraphic dispatches must be addressed New York Herald.

Letters and packages should be properly sealed. Registered communications will not be returned. Entered at the Post Office at New York, N. Y., as second class matter.

PHILADELPHIA OFFICE—No. 112 SOUTH SIXTH STREET.

LONDON OFFICE OF THE NEW YORK HERALD—No. 40 FLEET STREET.

PARIS OFFICE—40 AVENUE DE L'OPERA.

NAPLES OFFICE—No. 7 VITRUA PAGE.

Subscriptions and advertisements will be received and forwarded on the same terms as in New York.

4TH YEAR.....NO. 251

AMUSEMENTS TO-DAY AND EVENING.

AQUARIUM—Uncle Tom's Cabin. Matinee.

ADAMS' PARK—Fritz in Ireland.

DAILY'S THEATRE—Arabian Nights. Matinee.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC—Donizetti.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE—Carmen. Matinee.

THEATRE DE LA MANE DE DEBUTANTE.

HAVELIA'S THEATRE—The Valley Slave. Matinee.

BROADWAY OPERA HOUSE—Strut Queens. Matinee.

ADRIEN'S THEATRE—The Little Venice.

NIEL'S GARDEN—Havens of Steel. Matinee.

STANDARD THEATRE—Princess Toto. Matinee.

WALLACKS—Kismet.

GERMANIA THEATRE—Donna Diana.

FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE—H. M. S. Pique.

UNION SQUARE THEATRE—French Play.

KOSTER & BIAL'S CONCERT HALL.

SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS—Thompson Street Place.

TONY PASTOR'S THEATRE—Variety.

COMIQUE—Mellican Guards' Christmas. Matinee.

CHICKERING HALL—Josselyn Matinee.

NADSON SQUARE GARDEN—Walking Match.

AMERICAN INSTITUTE—Daily Fair.

ASSOCIATION HALL—Ponce Indians.

TRIPLE SHEET.

NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1879.

The probabilities are that the weather in New York and its vicinity to-day will be warmer and fair.

To-morrow it will be warm and clear, followed by decreasing temperature.

WALL STREET YESTERDAY.—Stocks were fairly active but very weak until toward the close, when a general recovery brought prices a little above the opening level. Money was rather easy, the ruling quotation for call loans on stocks being 6 per cent. Foreign exchange was more active and rates for sterling were advanced. For government bonds there was a steady investment demand, while State and railway bonds were dull and irregular. Reports of the three great Vanderbilt lines were made, and abstracts of them will be found in the financial columns.

YESTERDAY WAS "monument day" in the Senate, bills or reports relative to three different monuments having been presented.

THE CALL for a meeting to consider asylum abuses is so well signed as to promise at least a partial wiping out of our State's greatest disgrace.

IN SPITE OF REPUBLICAN OPPOSITION from Washington the two houses of the Virginia Assembly have elected General Mahone to the United States Senate.

DR. LEMOYNE'S CREMATION FURNACE has been ablaze again, but the name of the individual incinerated is so carefully withheld that it is evident posthumous notoriety was not the cause of the operation.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES is to have a special committee on ship canals, to whom all petitions, reports, &c., on the subject of cutting through the Isthmus are to be referred. There are numerous headaches in store for that committee.

THE ALBANY LEGISLATORS who are investigating railroad management are to ascertain, if possible, the amount of "water" in the "L" roads. Judged by the quantity that drops upon pedestrians the original supply of water must be enormous.

SCORE ONE for the Custom House! An ocean steamer has been seized for bringing in a pug dog, estimated value fifteen dollars, which did not appear on the ship's manifest. Let Great Britain take heed to her ways, if she wants to do business with us.

BETWEEN MAINE AND MORALITY prominent New York republicans at home and in Washington are disagreeing sadly about the Presidential electors question. The matter, if left untouched, may possibly kill their party; but it is far more honorable to be killed than to commit suicide.

THE ALDERMANIC assumption of power to grant railroad franchises was rebuked yesterday by a veto and an opinion of the Corporation Counsel. But the will still exists to cut the city to pieces with horse-car tracks, and the building time of a paper railroad up town was extended for a year.

IN ANOTHER COLUMN will be found a graphic and interesting account of the defeat by the Chileans of the Peruvian Army under General Buerdiaz at San Francisco, furnished us by our correspondent at Lima. The Bolivians are disgusted with the conduct of the war and the general direction of military movements. President Prada is just now in bad odor at Lima.

THE WEATHER.—During the early part of yesterday a depression advanced from the Northwest over the lake regions and central valleys. Toward night it began to develop energy in the lower lake districts, where heavy snow began falling and the wind blowing briskly. The pressure is still below the mean in the northern portion of the New England States, the disturbance that passed over this district on Monday being still over the Nova Scotia coast. The barometer is high in the South Atlantic and Gulf States. It is also high and rising steadily throughout the Northwest. The weather was fair in all sections of the country with the exception of the lake regions, where it was cloudy, with snow and sleet showers. The temperature fell decidedly in the Middle Atlantic and New England States and rose in the other districts. The winds have been from brisk to fresh in the lake regions, central valleys and the Northwest. They were generally fresh elsewhere. The temperature will rise to-day in all the Atlantic coast districts, but will begin to fall again to-morrow night, and on Thursday night it will register below freezing point. The weather in New York and its vicinity to-day will be warmer and fair. To-morrow it will be warm and clear, followed by decreasing temperature.

Mr. Parnell's Visit.

In a few days the leader of the agrarian agitation in Ireland will step aboard the steamer which is to bring him to America. Why does he come? If as a mere visitor to see our country and form acquaintances with our people he is as welcome as are all other European gentlemen who come hither with a similar purpose. If as a political refugee who flies from home lest, like some of his associates, he should be arrested and indicted for sedition, he is still welcome. We have never refused asylum to men of that class; but if that could be supposed any part of Mr. Parnell's motive we could not commend his courage under the circumstances. Having led his coadjutors into the meshes of the law we should not expect him to abandon them in their trouble and find safety for himself in a foreign land, even under color of a mission to raise money for their cause. The most becoming place for a chief is at the post of danger. It is certain that Mr. Parnell will be safe in this country so long as he chooses to stay, since an English writ cannot be served on him within our jurisdiction. He will be safe while his associates are in peril; he can watch at a distance the proceedings against them, and judge by the severity of their sentences what would be likely to happen to himself if he should return and fall into the clutches of the government. It will require no nerve for him to make speeches here, and no violence of inflammatory language will expose him to prosecution. We commend his prudence, but hold our judgment in suspense as to his courage until it is seen what amount of danger he will have to face when he selects the time for his return. Considering the time he has chosen for his departure and absence he is not giving a proof of intrepidity.

It is given out that Mr. Parnell comes on a mission. If when he arrives on our shores he announces that the purpose of his mission is an appeal to the American people to supply food for the famishing our whole press and whole public will give him their warmest moral support. His meetings for this purpose will be largely attended by our best citizens, and there will be no difficulty in raising means to send cargo after cargo of flour and meal and pork to be distributed among the suffering Irish poor. If he should wish to create an emigration fund he will find sympathetic listeners for that also, after the supply of food is made adequate for the relief of immediate distress. Anything which he proposes for the real welfare of Ireland, which it is proper for the American people to do, will be judged with generous candor.

But suppose he wants to raise a sedition fund in America? If that is the object of his mission we cannot encourage him to expect any success. How would the money be expended? If for arms, our government would interfere and prevent the shipment of arms to be used against a government with which it is at peace. If for supporting orators and speakers, our people would refuse to give money to be expended in getting the speakers into jail with those of Mr. Parnell's associates who are awaiting trial. Such contributions would bring good to nobody and would get a great many speakers into trouble. Besides, there would be a manifest indecency in sending money into a foreign country for assisting people in violating the laws.

If the American people are to be asked for contributions to an Irish sedition fund they will either turn a deaf ear to a proposal which they think absurd on its face, or they will inquire into the merits and grounds of the application. What is this agitation for? The answer may as well be stated in the nakedness of simple truth—it is an agitation to uphold the Irish tenant farmers in violating their contracts. To be sure, there are ulterior objects, but the road to those further objects lies through a bold and menacing violation of contracts into which the tenants voluntarily entered. Whether as a means or an end, the violation of contracts does not commend itself to moral approval. Cases indeed sometimes arise in the course of human affairs when the violation of a contract is excusable; but the only excuse which the moral sense of mankind has ever admitted as valid is inability to perform the contract. If a tenant has engaged to pay a certain rent, and, owing to the vicissitudes of the season, has nothing to pay with, no blame attaches to the default thus forced upon him by a hard necessity. This is the unfortunate, the pitiable state of many of the poorer Irish tenants. But there is no need of agitation and sedition to prevent such people from paying rents. As no coercion on the part of the landlords can extort from them what they do not possess, so, on the other hand, it is superfluous and preposterous to bull-doze them into withholding what they have not. The agitation which is inspired and led by Mr. Parnell is intended to prevent the payment of rents by tenants who have the ability, and is therefore a bold and bald encouragement to the repudiation of legal debts. Encouragement is not, however, the proper word for describing this widespread system of coercive violence. Irish tenants who have the means and the disposition to fulfil their engagements are assailed with threats and put in peril of assassination; and this is the good work for which American assistance is to be solicited! The agrarian agitation led by Mr. Parnell is a fierce and murderous crusade against common honesty—a war upon that first principle of sound morals recognized in all ages and countries, that it is the duty of men to fulfil their contracts. It will be in vain for Mr. Parnell to ask the American people to indorse and assist a movement which thus strikes at the foundation of morals and subverts one of the main pillars of society. If he claims on the hardships of people who have nothing to pay and little to eat we shall admit the force of the appeal but refuse to respond in the way which he asks. Money he can have in abundance for alleviating the sufferings of this class, but not for making them the instruments of operating other tenants to violate their contracts and expose themselves to the rigors of the law. The Amer-

ican people will not be parties to a movement for getting honest Irishmen into a scrape and entangling them in the meshes of criminal prosecutions.

It may be said that this violence, and this repudiation of contracts, and this intimidating bravado, are necessary means of forcing a reform in the land laws. These may be Irish methods, but they are not American methods. Our people do not believe in doing evil that good may come. "Who noble ends by noble means pursues" has always been thought worthy of commendation; but in this Irish agitation we condemn both the ends and the means. What is the professed end? Why, to abolish the tenant system and divide Ireland into small farms upon which men shall cultivate their own acres. This is a seductive picture if it could be realized; but how are people who are too poor to pay their rents and are in danger of famishing to purchase these ideal small farms? They can obtain them only by spoliation, and Mr. Parnell's plan is rank communism. The poor Irish are being as badly practised upon as our confiding freedmen were when each of them was promised by demagogues "forty acres and a mule."

Grant in Philadelphia.

General Grant was yesterday welcomed to Philadelphia by a turn out of nearly the whole population. So extravagant a demonstration of popular good will toward an individual has scarcely been seen by the present generation; and if it were fair to regard this welcome in a political light it might well admonish the friends of other candidates that they have a hard fight before them. But there was evidently a sentiment in Philadelphia, as there was previously in Cincinnati, that any attempt to foist politics into these popular expressions of gratitude would be in bad taste, and in fact offensive. Gentlemen of all parties joined hands on the occasion to do honor to a man whose services to the nation are almost without a parallel. In Cincinnati the participation of the democrats was especially conspicuous, and the men who would be in a political canvass very resolute opponents of General Grant have been foremost in their exhibition of a desire not to be outdone in giving an open-hearted welcome to the nation's great soldier and the conqueror of the peace that saved the Union. This sentiment is as honorable to the people as it is to the subject of this unusual honor. It boldly puts out of the way all the small manoeuvres of the politicians, spikes the guns of the boomers and assumes that Grant as a popular hero is aside from parties and party conflicts.

Dimes on the "L."

It is a matter of common report that many employes of the elevated railroads arrogate to themselves a quantity and quality of authority that no people or corporation outside of the United States would tolerate for a single day. Insolence to passengers, rude manners, carelessness in important duties, hair-splitting discriminations and annoyances of many other kinds have been reported steadily through the Herald's "Complaint Book" ever since the roads were opened to business. The latest stretch of authority is a little the most outrageous of all, for it transgresses not only the rules of the companies but the laws of the United States. Some agents are reported to have refused badly worn coin, although the law recognizes a worn piece at its nominal value so long as its denomination is not in doubt, and the Sub-Treasurer redeems such coin, the only ground of refusal being mutilation. Perhaps the agents referred to do not know the difference between mutilation and abrasion, but as the public does, it might be well for the companies to instruct their ticket sellers accordingly. It being a matter of fact that almost any silver coin of the United States may be worn smooth without losing more than a tenth part of one per cent of its value, and as this fact will be evident to any one who notes how little of the material of the coins is in the raised portion of the surface, ticket agents have no excuse for adding to the already too numerous annoyances of people who pay more for the accommodations received than the difference between the expenses and receipts of the roads justifies.

Extremes Meet.

Maine and Florida are situated respectively at the northern and southern extremities of the Union. If a democratic canvassing board in Maine reverses the popular vote in 1879 by manipulating returns, it imitates a republican canvassing board in Florida in 1876. It is an example of extremes meeting. We do not assert that in either instance the reversal may not be supported on technicalities. We merely call attention to the likeness of the two cases. The will of the people is equally subverted in both. As the late Mr. William M. Tweed remarked with regard to some business of the same sort, so the Florida democrats may say to the Maine republicans, "Now you know how it is yourself." But for technicalities the democratic electors would have been returned in Florida, and but for technicalities a republican Legislature would be returned in Maine. The Electoral Commission adjudged that it was impossible to go behind the certificate of the Florida Returning Board, and so, perhaps, it will be impossible to go behind the certificate of the Returning Board in Maine, though that remains to be seen. If the Supreme Court of Maine should adjudge that the decision of Governor Garcelon and his Council is not final as to who "appear to be elected" to the Legislature of that State (this being the language of its constitution), then the Maine republicans are fortunate in possessing a remedy which was denied to the democrats of Florida.

In spite of the clamor which Senator Blaine and his followers are making about this Maine affair very little pity is felt for them, even among persons whose estimate of the wrong done does not differ from their own. Remembering what happened three years ago, this ousting of a republican majority by technicalities seems a rough kind of Mosaic justice—an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. The most hopeful

view we take of it is that it may awake the republican party to the danger of the precedents they set in 1876. If retaliation in kind is to be tolerated in politics the science of our government will soon get down to the level of jurisprudence measured by the practice of law in a Tomba court.

The Afghan War.

"There is no cause for alarm," says the London Times in regard to the war in Afghanistan; just as the ruler of France at a critical stage in the war with Germany said to the Parisians that "all could yet be set right." As the Emperor's phrase implied that all was at that moment wrong, so the phrase of the Times suggests its opinion that the reports are such that the country will certainly need reassurance as to the possible extent of the bad news.

Thirty thousand Afghans are in arms against the British forces near Cabul. They are well armed and apparently well disciplined. "Their fire was severe," says General Roberts, but as the report of operations for seven days sums up a loss for the English of only forty-two killed and seventy-six wounded it may be judged that the "severity" does not appear, unless we are to assume that the English got out of the way with peculiar alacrity. To make head against this thirty thousand the British have an effective force of five thousand. Nominally they have rather more, but in the parade of the whole available force made on the 10th, with a view to awe the city of Cabul, the number of troops then under arms was reported at five thousand. No troops of any value for active operations would have been left out of the lines on that day. And this small British force is now besieged by the Afghans in its intrenched camp to the north of Cabul. This exhibits a sudden and remarkable change from the recent attitude of the forces.

But a very few days ago the British were in possession of the country and its capital; and, though neither was tranquil, there was not excitement or activity enough to inspire any uneasiness. It was known at Candahar and Cabul early in the month that Ayoub Khan had marched from Herat toward Candahar with twelve regiments, but it was believed that this was an outbreak of a "mutinous" spirit on the part of the troops; though how the activity of soldiers eager to drive a foreign invader out of the country can fairly be called a mutiny it would trouble any one but an Englishman to tell. But Ayoub's movement was attributed to the "mutiny" of his troops and so regarded with contempt. It was not in the least suspected that this movement might be taken in concert with a sudden activity of troops near Cabul.

On the 9th an agent of the British commissary, collecting supplies at Maidan, on the Ghuznee road, was killed, and considerable disaffection in that neighborhood was reported. On that day or the next General Baker was sent to restore order, and General Massy was to follow, but the latter commander did not get far on his way. He was surprised at Sarkhotal by the discovery that he was at a point which had been selected for the concentration of hostile forces; and General Roberts found that the war had broken out all around him without notice. An immediate attempt to disperse the hostile forces brought on the fight between General Massy and Mohammed Jan, in which General Massy was beaten and compelled to make a precipitate retreat. On the next day the fight was renewed, with the addition of the force under General Baker, brought back from Maidan. General Roberts reported a complete victory. Nevertheless the enemy accomplished the object of their movement, which was to seize the heights south of the Bala-Hissar. With the enemy in that position the Cabul citadel was not tenable, and therefore it was decided to storm their position on Saturday last. We have not heard any account of that fight, but we are permitted to learn that the English are no longer in Cabul, that they have evacuated the city and are in their intrenched camp, and that "their strength is being tested more severely than hitherto," and "for the moment the Afghans have the upper hand."

But we must remember that we have not heard the worst of the news from Afghanistan. We have heard only the reports of official correspondents, who are not permitted in these days to distress the British public with a detail of unpleasant facts. What could not possibly be kept from the public is out, and it indicates sufficiently that a serious calamity has actually occurred or is imminent.

Captain Williams Transfers Himself.

The Herald has occasionally become weary of well doing in the matter of informing the Police Commissioners of what every one knows to be the duty of those gentlemen—every one but themselves. But the news published yesterday showed conclusively the foolishness of being faint-hearted and despondent. Months ago, while the transfer of Captain Williams from the Twenty-ninth precinct was being urged by at least one of the Commissioners, and opposed by at least two others, whose intelligent appreciation of the good things of this world doubtless caused their reluctance to tear the Captain away from the "tenderloin steak of the city," the Herald advised the doughty King of Clubs to have pity upon his friends and transfer himself. Our yesterday's reports of interviews with some of the Commissioners indicate that the recent change in the Captain's sphere of duty has been in accordance with the Herald's advice. Captain Williams, say Commissioners French and Wheeler, is promoted, not degraded; he regards the transfer as a compliment; he desired the change himself and without his approval it would not have been made. This is as it should be; the underlings of an autocrat should always be courteous to the power that is gracious enough to allow them to publicly go through the formalities of governing him, but it is to be hoped that the Commissioners will exhibit proper sentiments of gratitude to the Herald for the suggestion that has relieved them of

the tortures they were experiencing a few weeks ago.

As for the Captain himself, sober thought does not make his act of self-transfer appear one of unalloyed magnanimity. It is possible for the region of the tenderloin steak of an animal to be worked so hard as to make the choicest cut extremely innoxious and unsatisfactory, and it is not impossible that the once appetizing Twenty-ninth may have been reduced to the same condition. Yielders of tenderloin steaks, when under the impression that too much is being required of them, may gradually stray into fresh fields and pastures new, or, worse yet, remain behind because too thin to move and too tough to devour. In such cases the true gourmand who personally selects his own viands must himself seek fresh hunting grounds. Street sweepers' brooms do not at first sight appear edible, but culinary ingenuity has worked wonders with material that was far more unpromising in the rough; so it is not impossible that the Captain and his dependents may yet put knife and fork into diaphs compared with which tenderloin steaks are mere prison fare. Should the enterprise fail, however, it is a consolation to the public to know that the Captain has still a property in Japan, where everything is still tenderloin to skilful Americans. If the said property is large enough to accommodate some of the Commissioners also the public joy will be still greater.

Science Enlivened by Romance.

We print from advance sheets the principal parts of the *Vicomte de Lesseps* treatise upon an American interoceanic canal which will appear in the January number of the *North American Review*. The time-worn story of another Frenchman, who constructed an ideal canal out of his consciousness and wrote a brilliant treatise upon the imaginary creature without ever seeing the live animal, comes irresistibly to mind while reading it. After listening to Admiral Ammen's straightforward lecture on the same topic last week, which stuck so closely to a dry discussion of the subject, M. de Lesseps' discursive speculations whether King Solomon's ships sailed up the Amazon and the red men of this continent are descendants of Egyptians, together with his researches into the ancient Peruvian language and anecdotes of diplomatic experience with Mehemet Ali, seem delightfully impertinent to the real matter in hand. His picturesque description of the result of the Paris Canal Congress as "a monument of science erected in a fortnight," his unlimited avowal that the French explorations "furnish all that is wanting to an exact knowledge of the American Isthmus throughout its entire length," and his positive assurance that "the Panama Canal will be easier to begin, to finish and to maintain than the Canal of Suez," all us with equal admiration. The sober and plodding American surveyors and calculators who have been hard at work upon this great canal problem, not merely for a fortnight, but for the last quarter of a century, and have modestly but firmly reached other conclusions, will hold their breath with surprise at the dashing style of their redoubtable French adversary. But we welcome it heartily. It enlivens an uncommonly serious scientific debate with the charms of romantic literature.

Emancipating ourselves, however, from the fascination of the *Vicomte's* romantic method of treatment, and analyzing his article for the purpose of extracting the pith of it, its conclusions may be summed up in two sentences. He contends that a canal by the Nicaragua route, fed with river and lake water, is inexpedient, because it will be impossible to build it with lines straight enough to permit the passage of large steamships, because there will be such delays in working the locks that it will be useless for practical navigation, and because it will be frequently broken up by earthquakes. He contends also that a tide-water canal by the Panama route is expedient, because the Paris Canal Congress has voted that it is practicable, because "there are no earthquakes at Panama," and because he "trusts that there are no serious physical obstacles." But he does not expand his argument on any of these points sufficiently to carry conviction against the official advice of the United States commission which was appointed by President Grant in 1873 and reported in 1876, and of which Admiral Ammen is the representative. His article is only adapted to stimulate the already enlisted partisans of the Panama project under the Colombian ten per cent grant, but not to convince and disarm any of its critics. As to his connection with that project and grant he desires it to be understood that he "has assumed the responsibility of the enterprise, and no one else has any responsibility whatever" for its methods and management.

PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE.

Associate Justice Stephen J. Field, of the United States Supreme Court, is at the Buckingham Hotel.

It is whispered in Rome that Queen Margherite is seriously unwell, and that her lungs are threatened.

Captain William Arthur, naval attaché of the British Legation, is at the Clarendon Hotel, on his way to Washington.

Colonel Burnaby says that Europe has less than nine and a half million soldiers and a quarter of a million of sea forces.

Owing to a change for the worse in Her Majesty's health the Emperor of Russia has abandoned her intended visit to Rome.

M. Zola, with his usual taste, refers, in his latest work, to "une certaine prison, Als d'une reine très jeune," and to his orgies "chez Nana."

An old diplomat thus improves on an old saw:—"Puis importe de dire ce qu'on pense ou de penser ce qu'on dit," says he; "le tout est d'avoir l'air convaincu."

Professor E. S. Morse thinks that the original inhabitants of Japan were of the same stock from which sprang the Esquimaux and American Indians.

Philadelphia papers give maps of Grant's tour round the world. After they got Philadelphia in there is just room on the maps for some of the rest of the world.

Remondy says that it requires a little lunacy to play well on the violin, and that addlers ought to be shut up in a lunatic asylum. But what could we do without Remondy?

"Garçon," cried a diner during the late snow storm at Paris, "qu'est-ce que vous avez de froid?" "Monsieur est bien bon," says the waiter; "j'ai les pieds à la glace, et c'est comme ça pendant tout l'hiver."

King Kalakaua, of the Sandwich Islands, has tried to induce Portuguese to settle in his country, having

caught the fear that the Chinese will soon be in a majority there.

Mr. Proctor writes:—"Mr. Blanton Duncan, of Louisville, is exercising a statement attributed to me respecting planetary perihelia, to the effect that the four giant planets had often been in perihelion within a shorter interval than that between 1857 and 1885, when they will next be severally in perihelion. In answer to a question read by me two minutes before I stepped upon the platform I said, 'These planets, the giant planets, will all be in perihelion between 1883 and 1885, but it can readily be shown that, taking the disturbance of the solar envelope by a planet as of the nature of tidal action, and therefore directly proportional to the mass and inversely proportional to the cube of the distance, the four terrestrial planets, Mercury, Venus, the Earth and Mars, disturb the sun more than the giant planets, and these planets have many times during the earth's history reached their perihelia within a shorter interval than that within which the four giant planets will next be in perihelion, without any injury resulting to the earth.' The reporter left out the part between brackets, that is all."

It is amusing to find the stern critic of artistic or literary shortcomings falling into mistakes which an intelligent school boy might be expected to avoid. Dr. F. A. von Moschizker, in the *Republique*, takes Mr. John McCullough to task, because in reciting the "oration" of Brutus Mr. McCullough was not the Brutus who, according to Marc Antony, could "move the stones of Rome to rise and mutiny." Dr. Moschizker's mistake is not much worse, however, than that made by those who repeat Marc Antony's words, as though spoken in a sarcastic tone. If Antony had given the slightest hint of sarcasm at the beginning of his oration (the only oration in the play, for Brutus makes but a mere plain statement of his case), whether in speaking of the oratorical force which he pretends to find in Brutus, or in the often repeated words "And they are honorable men," the plebeian crowd would have torn him in pieces. As it is, though he begins all softly and with praise only, the rabble will hardly hear him. Yet we have heard actors of repute, in the part of Antony, repeat the words, "And they are honorable men," and surely they are honorable men," in the same tone throughout the oration, losing altogether that gradual change from unquestioning confidence, through hesitation, doubt, suspicion, to utter scorn, which gives these words their power.

FINE ARTS.

ILLUSTRATION IN HARPER'S FOR JANUARY.

The opening illustrations in *Harper's Magazine* for January are C. A. May's most admirable series of nine drawings, with Keweenaw, "The Old Woman with a Bag," and "The Old Woman with a Bag." They are finely engraved, as a rule, by Yuengling, Davis, Smithwick and French, Hoskin, King and Wolf, and we are sorry to say very heavily printed. Though there are some faults to be found in the engraver's interpretation of the artist's work, and with one of the drawings, the series as a whole is worthy the poem, than which there can be no higher praise. The cuts named from the lines they illustrate are:—"Numb" were the headmen of the half-breed, the aged creature came;" "Through many a dusky gallery they gain the maiden's chamber"—really a superb drawing; "Forsworn awhile she dreams away, in which the figure, though good in execution, is a bit of a brawny arm, is not successful in presenting the ideal heroine or harmonizing with the lines, for there is none of the half-breed which they suggest and which could have been made charming use of, and where the engraver has not been happy in the way of the artist's work, his other work is good, and "The Old Woman with a Bag," which is noticeable for its fine poses. F. B. May's illustrations in his very clever and interesting way "Old Baltimore and its Merchants." His figure of the Dravid is excellent. Mr. Rogers' Colorado sketches are only fair. Miss Curtis does as well as several of the best in "Compulsory Education in Brooklyn," which Sol. Rytting, Jr., contrives to make ridiculous, especially "The Old Woman with a Bag," and "The Old Woman with a Bag," which is a very effective illustration to the story of "The Old Woman with a Bag," and Miss Oakley to the Christmas Anthems. There are two cuts, of which the second is good in all but the drawing.

OBITUARY.

REV. WILLIAM H. GOODE.
The venerable William H. Goode, D. D., of the Methodist Episcopal Church, died of paralysis at his residence, in Richmond, Ind., at four o'clock yesterday morning.

MIDSHIPMAN J. M. L. PROUDFIT, U. S. N.
Midshipman John McLean Proudfit, of the United States Navy, died on the 15th inst. in the twenty-fifth year of his age. He was born in this State and entered the Navy Academy in 1874, graduating June 20, 1876. His last cruise expired in August, 1877, and he has since been stationed at the port of New York.

DR. J. B. GOULD.
Dr. J. B. Gould died in this city on Monday, of heart disease. His wife was the founder of the Home for Indigent Children, at Rome, Italy. He was a native of New York, where he was born in 1810. He studied medicine in this city, receiving his diploma from the College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1833. For several years he had resided in Rome.

MYSTERIOUS CREMATION.

LEMOYNE'S FURNACE USED FOR THE FOURTH TIME AT WASHINGTON, PA.—ABSURD SKECHES—WAS IT THE BODY OF TRACY, THE MURDERER?
[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Dec. 16, 1879.

A very peculiar kind of sensation is just now stirring the little town of Washington, Pa., into an excited condition. It has been known for several days by a few friends of the family of the late Dr. Julius Lemoine, of cremation fame, that some persons were negotiating for the use of the crematory erected by the Doctor. It was also known that the persons referred to intended to cremate the body of some one who had died lately, but before long this nothing was known by the town of Washington except the sons of Dr. Lemoine. The first publicity given as to the coming cremation was in a sportive paragraph, which appeared in a Washington paper yesterday, announcing that the ceremony would take place to-day. Attempts were made to ascertain the name of the deceased, but the Lemoines would say nothing about it, except that they were pledged to secrecy, and that they were in possession of the necessary certificate of death, signed by a physician in good standing. It was rumored that the body was from New York. When the eleven o'clock train started for Washington, the Lemoines carried the corpse to the depot, and four or five gentlemen who accompanied it, among whom was a clergyman.

A VAUDETTE STATEMENT.
I attempted to interview one of the gentlemen while en route, but he refused to give very much information. He was a young man, twenty-four years of age at the time of his death. He resided in New York city and was a brother of the deceased. Owing to trouble of some kind in getting the crematory, the body had to be placed in a vault in a New York cemetery and kept there until its removal. The gentleman said that he was strongly opposed to burning the body, as was all the family. But the dead man had executed a pledge from them that his body should be burned. All endeavors to discover the name of the deceased or of the person who brought the body here have thus far failed.

ON REACHING WASHINGTON, the fire in the furnaces of the little crematory on the hill, where Baron Von Palm, Mrs. Pittman and Dr. Lemoine were burned, were found to be lighted. About one o'clock the body was placed in the catafalque and by three o'clock it was reduced to ashes. No one was allowed to enter the building until the cremation was over, and the Lemoines. About five o'clock this afternoon the town was set agog with the report that the body had been cremated. It was a matter of course that the body should be cremated. The cremation was now